Vilidity of counter Guarantee for Dabhol Power Project

540. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether the recent counter guarantee signed by the Central Government under the Power Purchase Agreement for Dabhol Power Project is valid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOBALACHARI): Yes, Sir.

Sick deep-sea fishing companies

541. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of deep-sea fish ing companies becoming financially sick has come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTERY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government had constituted a Technical Committee to look into the problems of the deep sea fishing industry. This Committee has submitted its Report and action on the recommendations made therein has been initiated at inter Ministerial level.

542. [Withdrawn]

ISRO Spying case

543. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the ISRO spying case;

(b) whether the I.B., the C.B.I., the police and R.A.W. have been working at cross purposes in the matter; and

(c) if so, what effective steps Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) On completion of the investigations, the Central Bureau of Investigation filed a final report on 30.04.1996 before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ernakulam, praying for the discharge of all the six accused persons as there was no espionage activity involved. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ernakulam, accepted the final report of the CBI and pronounced, on 02.05.19%, that the allegations of espionage and other charges against the accused were not proved and had been found to be false in investigation and discharged all the six accused persons.

(b) and (c) The Government on the request of the Government of Kerala, had entrusted the investigations of the case to the CBI. The CBI has taken into consideration inputs from all the other investigating agencies before drawing up their final report and taking action as at (a) above.

Southern Gas Grid

544. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Govemments, which are party to Southern Gas Grid proposed to be set up with their contribution and the amount of gas likely to be drawn by each partner State, percentagewise;

(b) whether any nodal committee has been set up to frame and prepare the feasibility report for this project;

(c) the likely total cost of this project; and

(d) at what stage this project has reached and when is it likely to be initiated.